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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: Examiner M. Song

Company Name: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax Number: (703) 746-9115

From: David Ovedovitz

Date: February 24, 2003

Re: Proposed claim amendment to claim 7 for Application Serial No. 09/867,628.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2

Message: This is a DRAFT amendment for discussion during our interview. If there are any problems with this fax, please call me at (202) 721-8222. I look forward to discussing this matter with you on Wednesday, February 26, 2003.

Thanks,

Dave

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Fax Operator: J. Johnson

7. (Proposed) An apparatus for pulling a single crystal, said apparatus comprising:

- an apparatus body;
- a crucible located in said body, said crucible adapted to hold a melt;
- a lifting device being operable to lift said crucible;
- a reference reflector located inside said apparatus body;
- an optical device located outside of said apparatus body; and
- level position controlling means for controlling a level position of said crucible via said lifting device, said level position controlling means comprising:
 - diameter measuring means for measuring a diameter of the single crystal;
 - crucible ascent speed calculating means for calculating a decrease in volume of the melt based on the diameter of the single crystal measured by said diameter measuring means and a pulled crystal length of the single crystal and calculating an ascent speed of said crucible based on the decrease in volume of the melt;
 - level position measuring means for measuring an actual level position by detecting a mirror image position of said reference reflector reflect by a surface of the melt using said optical device; and
 - crucible ascent speed adjustment value calculating means for calculating an adjustment value of the ascent speed of said crucible based on an output from said level position measuring means, wherein

said level position controlling means controls the level position of said crucible based on the ascent speed adjusted by the adjustment value when [certain] criteria for judgement are satisfied and said level position controlling means controls the level position of said crucible based on just the ascent speed when the [certain] criteria for judgement are not satisfied.